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Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Thursday, April 16, 1998

The Rise and Fall of Full-Serve Gasoline

How East County seniors are fighting for access

by Sheila B. Jurist

he woman with the arthritic hands only wanted five dollars' worth of gas, but she might as well have wanted rocket fuel. Every gas station in sight was equipped with selfserve pumps, many staffed by a single cashier holed up in a glass

Marty Martinez was at the next pump over, so the woman called out, offering to pay him \$2 if he would pump the five dollars worth of gas.

Martinez put in all seven dol-

lars' worth, but couldn't get the woman's plight off his mind. As a member of the newly formed Commission Aging for the

city of El Cajon, he decided to make a gasoline-assistance program for seniors his first order of business

The El Cajon Commission on Aging inaugurated its Senior Citizen Gasoline Program this week. It's the newest effort to counter a five-year trend in the petroleum industry to phase out full-serve gasoline.

More than 96 percent of the gas pumped in California is from self-serve pumps. Customers so enjoyed the self-serve discount that stations offered, that by 1994, most companies were converting dormant full-serve.pumps to selfserve. Lone-cashier stations with card-reading pumps has further eliminated staff that, once upon a time, pumped gas, washed windows and changed oil on the spot.

"I know a lot of stations that do not offer full serve," said Wayne Marshall, manager of the Texaco station on Greenfield Drive and East Main Street in El Cajon. "I would like to see the Senior Citizen Gasoline Program get off the ground."

Only one of the four pumps at Marshall's station is designated for full serve. Although the price is exactly the same as for the selfserve gas, many customers avoid the full-serve side of the island,

assuming they'll have to pay

Marshall said many customers go ahead and serve themselves anyway, but his employees are pleased to help the elderly and the

"The employees are here and available," he said. "It gives them something to do because, mostly, they do credit cards and run the

Marshall's station also has restrooms to accommodate those with disabilities and attendants

few company-operated stations most of the stations are franchises," said Don Turk, public affairs advisor for Mobil. "Mobil encour-

aged Friendly Serve, and in order to get it up and running, we gave assistance through a financial incentive. We withdrew the financial help when we thought the program was up-

and running. Turk said the Friendly Serve program will still be offered at every Mobil-owned station: franchisees will have to decide for themselves whether or not to continue full serve.

The Commission on Aging in the city of La Mesa took action three years ago. Commissioner Howard Gordon said that the last station willing to pump gas for seniors was about to shut down for a lengthy remodel job on its underground tanks.

"Local people complained, and the La Mesa Senior Citizen Gasoline Program was organized." Gordon said.

La Mesa provides yellow placards with the La Mesa Commission on Aging seal. Participating stations display the placards to let seniors know they can pull in for

Howard said the dealers hope they'll get a trade-off when seniors need repairs or oil changes.

"El Cajon copied off of our idea," he said. "with our permission, of course."

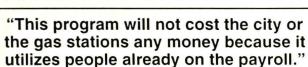
El Cajon is now providing orange placards to show seniors which stations participate. The

placards are available at Wells Park Center office. A list of gas stations involved will also be pro-

Guidelines for the program state the participants must be 65 years old or older and be residents of the city of El Cajon.

"This program will not cost the city or the gas stations any money because it utilizes people already on the payroll," said Martinez of the Commission on Aging. "If there is a food store, there are usually two people, and other stations will have someone who just does mechanical work. The reason the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. were chosen, is because that's when two people are generally available.

Anyone with questions or problems with gas station service can contact Martinez at 593-1190.



- Marty Martinez El Cajon Commission on Aging

Gas stations in California are legally required to pump gas for disabled drivers at self-serve prices. There's an escape clause any time a station is staffed by a

will deliver loaner cars to seniors

or disabled people who need their

cars serviced.

lone cashier. Mobil Oil tried bringing back full serve in late 1995, with its "Friendly Serve Attendant Program." During certain business hours, Friendly Serve Attendants were available to assist customers at the pumps. Gas was pumped and windows wiped without the driver leaving the car. This was an especially valuable service to handicapped and senior consumers, and many people had come to depend

on this being provided. Service with a smile ended on April 1. Mobil discontinued all the financial support for the Friendly Serve Attendant Program. A local gas station owner, who asked not to be identified, claimed local dealers were just pocketing money the corporate office had designated to pay for the extra Friendly Serve staff.

A Mobil spokesman said, however, the corporate money was always considered just seed money to get the program going.

"In San Diego, there are very

East County bus ridership hits record level

While turmoil continues in the petroleum industry, people are using the San Diego County Transit System (CTS) in record numbers, according to a county report.

in March 1998 compared with March 1997. CTS reports that 335,907 passengers climbed aboard this March, up from 301,595 a year earlier.

The record was set on 18 CTS routes serving the East Countysuburban area, which includes the cities of El Cajon, La Mesa,

Lemon Grove and Santee, as well as Lakeside, Spring Valley, Casa de Oro and Alpine.

CTS figures show that ridership has more than quadrupled over the past 10 years, from just over a million passengers in 1988 to a projected 4.5 million passengers this year.

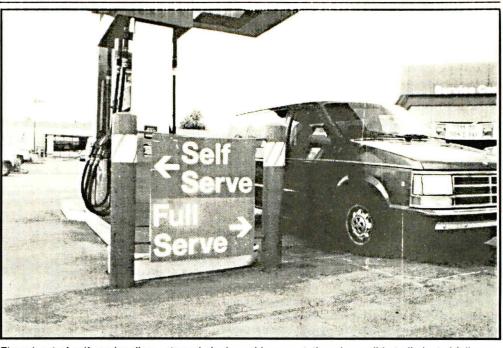
"This growth is due to the County Transit System's focus on customer service and use of innovative, performance-based contracts with private firms that operate those services," said East County Supervisor Dianne Jacob.

"Money saved by contracting with the private sector has been reinvested in new suburban routes and in the improvement of bus stops to serve our senior and disabled riders."

quent service, has purchased new lift-equipped buses and has constructed regional transit cen-

Automated route and schedule information is available at Info Express, 685-4900. Information can also be found on the Internet at www.co.san-diego.ca.us/cts.

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The advent of self-service discounts and single-cashier gas stations have all but eliminated full-serve gas stations. Some seniors are fighting back with positive programs.

M is for Mayor

Personal comments of Mayor Mary Sessom

Come to the aid of 'Plant Lemon Grove'

"Now is the time for all good Grovers to come to the aid of their city." I remember typing something similar to this many years ago in high school in the days of manual typewriters. I have changed some of the wording to fit the theme of this week's column - aid or help to

Volunteerism is a buzz word in today's society. We all are urged to give of our time to our schools, churches and civic organizations in an effort to improve the lot of those we are helping. All too often, help to our neighborhoods, communities or cities is never mentioned.

City government is expected to improve streets, sidewalks, sewers, parks, etc., on the money it is given. Little funding, however, is given to local government to improve those more intangible aspects of life like beauty, feelings of safety or community pride.

The city of Lemon Grove has been making an effort in the last four years to address these intangibles with volunteer projects like Rotary Club's "Paint Lemon Grove.

April 25 is going to bring another opportunity for Grovers to volunteer some time to improve the aesthetics of our City. Soroptimists "Plant Lemon Grove" project is aimed at turning a barren part of SR94 into a beautiful landscaped thoroughfare - a lovely gateway to our city.

On that Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain or shine) volunteers will plant 300 trees. 2.000 flowering shrubs and spread mulch over the six acre project that makes up the off-ramp at Lemon Grove Avenue. If you are over the age of 12 and want to participate, please call Bob Richardson at 464-6934 for registration information.

If planting is not on your list of favorite things to do, the city has two other volunteer projects. The City/School District Collaboration Committee has an opening for a resident. This committee is doing strategic planning with the resources of the city and school district in an effort to provide more services to the citizens and the students while saving money. The committee meets approximately once every five weeks for two hours in the evening.

The Traffic Advisory Committee will soon have two openings for members who are residents of the city. This group has the charge of listening to traffic problems that arise out of our neighborhoods or business areas and solving them or making recommendations to the City Council. This group meets every other month for two hours in the evening. Call me at City Hall (464-6934) if you are interested in serving on either committee.

If you are interested in improving the looks, safety or resources of Lemon Grove - now is the time to come to the aid of your city!

Musician brings celebration of Earth to Unitarian Service

Humans and our connections with the Earth will be the topic of a special at a Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship service at 10 a.m. Sunday, led by Jim Scott, former member of the Paul Winter Consort. Scott will offer his original songs and readings of his poetry in the service at the fellowship, 7849 Tommy Drive, San Carlos

Composer, guitarist, singer and Unitarian peace activist from Eugene, Ore., Scott considers himself a catalyst, using music to spread a message of peace, empowerment and equality. He has performed and led services at over 200 Unitarian churches across the United States and Canada. Three of his songs are included in the Unitarian hymnbook.

From a background in classical and jazz studies at Eastman School of Music and Berklee College, Scott's music has gathered influences from his involvement in peace and ecology causes as well as his travels to Nicaragua. Australia and across North America.

He also composed a stage musical. "The Tree and Me." about saving the old growth forest of the Northwest which has been produced in New York and Michigan.

"My music is both reflective and proactive." Scott says. "I believe strongly in the power of song and self-expression to create positive

For information about the service, call the Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 463-4676. Everyone is welcome.

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		High	Low			
April	6	64	43			
April	7	64	4.5			
April	8	70	43			
April	9	72	44			
April	10	72	48			
April	11	64	50			
April	12	62	52			

Precipitation

April	6	Trace
April	7	0.20"
April	11	0.44"
April	12	0.23"

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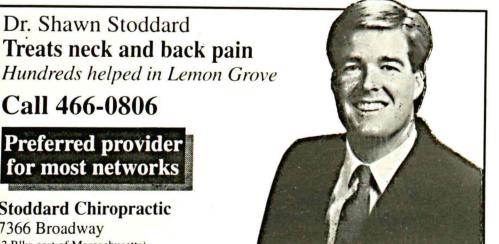
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WEATHER B Words

by Bob Burns

Universal calendar needed in Lemon Grove

What we really, really need in Lemon Grove is a universal calendar, For the second time in recent weeks we are having a conflict of events, and it is a shame.

First, there was the "Real Men Cook" and the Chamber dinners on the same night. Although they were both successes, they could have been more so if not held in conflict with each other. Now we have the Chamber Casino Night on Saturday, and the members will be spinning the roulette wheel simultaneously with the Knights of Columbus who will be dealing the cards at their Las Vegas Night.

I know that it has been tried before, and each time failed, either from lack of attention or interest. But, it just has to be possible, especially in a small community such as our own.

Let us say that on some specific date, a community calendar would be deadlined for the upcoming year. For those annual events, such as the Chamber installation, the St. Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner, the Valentine's dances, the Old Time Days events, our city's birthday and the many others that could be scheduled ahead, it could be planned, The open dates would then be up for grabs and events could be penciled in without conflicts

Who would be best to take over such a chore. With regrets to the Chamber for their fiscal problems, it would seem that they could do it. All organizations could refer to them with their plans, and a coordinated calendar would be the result. I know that I cannot attend every event but I certainly cannot do two at once.

I was especially sorry not to have attended the Chamber affair, in that I was honored with a nomination for something. But my Huntin' Camp Stew was already simmering, so the Real Men Cook dinner had to command my full attention.

Or, maybe the Soroptimist Club, or another service club could undertake the job. It doesn't seem that it would take a lot of time. Just a calender and a phone number to take the calls. With a little publicity, it should work. Since I am no longer mayor, I cannot volunteer that city staff would do it, but I might if I were still a city employee. This might be a good election promise by one of the candidates. It's possible?

Long ago, we tried to get SDG&E, Helix Water, Cox Cable, etc. to coordinate with public works in this fashion. We were told that it was impossible, what with the extremely flexible and opportunistic manner in which each agency did their work. It seems that we are always destined to see one company standing by while a street it finished being surfaced, with jack hammer poised to dig it up again. Ah, well, so be it, but there has to be a better way with an event calender in Lemon Grove.

At the very least, I hope that Jack Shelver does not plan a trip next Armed Forces Day parade day. His Jeep was sorely missed this year, to represent we Vets in Lemon Grove.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

April 1, 1998 3200 blk. Olive St. Chest pains.

3600 blk. 69th St. Abdominal pains.

6600 blk. Federal Blvd. Traffic accident.

6800 blk. Cedral Pl. Difficulty breathing. 7200 blk. Broadway Ave. Evaluate for the Sheriff.

3700 blk. Hilltop Dr. Fall.

8000 blk. Lemon Grove Way. Traffic accident.

7500 blk. Hughes St. Medical aid

April 2, 1998

High Street/Lemon Grove Avenue. Vehicle burglary.

2800 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Asthma.

3700 blk. King St. Assault victim.

7800 blk. Broadway Ave. Unresponsive. 2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Difficulty breathing.

Kenwood Ave./Bancroft Dr. Auto vs. pedestrian. April 3, 1998

1700 blk. San Altos Pl. Rape victim. 3200 blk. College Pl. Unresponsive.

WB Hwy 94/Massachusetts Ave. Vehicle accident freeway.

2400 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Person down.

La Corta St./Massachusetts Ave. Vehicle accident.

7400 blk. Daytona St. Fall.

April 4, 1998

2600 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Commercial/industrial fire. 7000 blk. Casa Ln. Non breather.

3600 blk. Vista Ave. Person down.

6500 blk. Federal Blvd. Vehicle accident. 8100 blk. Baldwin Rd. Fall.

7400 blk. Daytona St. Dog bite

2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Fall.

00 blk. Bancroft Dr. Residential structure fire 1600 blk. San Altos Pl. Assault victim.

3200 blk. College Pl. Medical aid.

April 6, 1998

NB Hwy 125/Spring St. Vehicle accident freeway. NB Hwy 125/Spring St. Evaluate for Police Dept.

2000 blk. Ensenada St. Ringing alarms residential.

San Miguel Ave./Massachusetts Ave. Vehicle accident.

8200 blk. Palm St. Natural gas leak. 3000 blk. Main St. Difficulty breathing

6900 blk. Broadway Ave. Assault victim.

6900 blk. Central Ave. Fall.

3100 blk. School Lane Medical aid. 2400 blk. Central Wayside Court. Residential structure fire.

April 7, 1998

7900 blk. Barton Dr. Fall.

1700 blk. Skyline Dr. Possible heart. 1700 blk. Dupont Dr. Difficulty breathing.

8200 blk. Iderdell Lane. Overdose.

PG Perspectives

by Phillip Giannangeli

It seems like it was eons ago that eggs were poached from our unhealthy diet. Bacon sizzled alone for a while and then there was a fire storm and nutritionists burned it beyond recognition. Next beef and butter turned out to be too much for our bodies and they had to be scraped off our plates as well

Remember those days of vesteryear when all we heard was that steady drumbeat of foods that were really, really bad for you? For heaven sake, even coffee made the list. Well, that was then. Now it's a different story. Today there are a bunch of new things that are bad for us. And since many research scientists have nothing better to do with their time, they seem to take delight in telling us about these nasty newcomers. Unlike the old days, however, when we could rid ourselves of the offending villain (mainly foods), today it isn't so easy. We can't in a number of instances, do very much about what could cause us grief. We can, however stare down these new evils and show them up for what they are. Let's glare at them.

A while back I mentioned a scientific study that found having the right initials might lead to a longer life. And conversely, having the wrong initials could lead to a less longer life. The study asserted that if one's initials were good, "such as ACE or GOD" one had a better chance of living longer than those "whose names spell out words like APE, DUD, RAT, Or PIG." According to the study, conducted by Dr. Nicholas Christenfeld, men with good initials lived 4.48 years longer than a control group and men with bad initials died 2.8 years earlier than a different control group. I guess the only safe place to be when these studies go on is in a control group.

Sadly though, unlike giving up eggs or beet. we're pretty well stuck with our initials unless we

Of waists and initials

want to go to court and change them later on. And if this shortened-life-thing is in fact cumulative. changing our initials later on won't put us back in good health. So, if you're stuck with BAD or YUK, don't stray too far from a righteous path. You never know when your initials will do you in.

Another one coming from all the way across the sea - by researchers at Glasgow University in Scotland, said that your waist measurement is a good indicator of whether you're at risk for having several serious conditions. For men it seems the magic number is 37 inches and under and for women, it's 31 inches or less. I can hear feminists howling, but it's those scientists in Scotland you should be mad at, not me. I'm just the unfortunate

As reported, if you're a man and you can still slip into those 36's, you're safe. Men, move up to that 40 inch waist and watch out for high cholesterol (by a factor of three). diabetes (seven times) and poor physical condition (four times). The report said that women were o.k. up to that 31 inch, dare I say anemic, waist. Get to 34 or above and join the men in the acute care ward.

As I said, some things we can change. We can give up troublesome habits. Change questionable behavior. But our initials and our waist sizes? Come on. I want to go back to the good old days when we were told that if we gave up some evil, we'd get something good in return. We had some control over our destiny. There wasn't this fatalism that seems to have taken over the research commu-

But just in case you know someone whose waist size is in the danger zone and whose initials are DED, encourage him not to set too many long term goals. At least that's what the latest research seems to show

Reel Thoughts

'Wide Awake' director creates film for family viewing and enjoyment

by Betty Jo Tucker

Tall, dark, and handsome M. Night Shyamalan may look more like a movie star than a writer/director, but his main interest lies in creating uplifting motion pictures like Wide Awake," his new movie for Miramax Films.

"I wanted to make a film the whole family could enjoy and talk about together afterwards," Shyamalan explained during a recent San Diego interview. "I also hoped that the movie would stay with them and give them something to think about," he

'Wide Awake" tells the story of Joshua (Joseph Cross), a fifth grade boy on a mission to find God. The grieving youngster believes this is the only way to learn if his recently deceased grandfather (Robert Loggia) is OK. Joshua's brave, and often amusing search puzzles not only his parents (Dana Delaney and Denis Leary), but also a nun at his (Rosie Catholic school O'Donnell), and his classmates. Shyamalan attended the same parochial school in Philadelphia where "Wide Awake" was filmed. Although he remembers fifth grade as a time when everything changed for him, he claims the rest of the film is pure fiction.

Shyamalan beams when talking about the cast assembled for this coming-of-age movie. "Robert Loggia is such a nice person, and I love working with chil-



Joseph Cross (Joshua) and Rosie O'Donnell (Sister Terry) talk religion in M. Night Shyamalan's "Wide Awake."

young enthusiastic moviemaker, child actors can be told how to say a line without feeling threatened. "With adults, you have to be more diplomatic," he confided.

In one of the film's best Terry Sister moments. (O'Donnell) patiently confronts Joshua about his sudden interest in other religions. Shyamalan kept the scene intimate and soft, going back and forth with closeups, then finally cutting to the little boy's feet dangling over an adult-size chair. The results are magical, thanks to this talented director's unique touch.

Answering criticism about ending his film with the appear-

dren." he declared. According to ance of an angel. Shyamalan revealed that this scene provides closure for children in the audience and also fits into his own belief system. "Most of the children who have seen my film choose this last scene as their favorite part of the movie," he pointed out.

> Twenty-seven year old Shyamalan has a bright future in the movie world. Disney just bought one of his screenplays, "The Sixth Sense," for a hefty \$3 million, and Bruce Willis has signed on for the starring role. San Diegans will get the chance to judge this new filmmaker's unusual work when "Wide Awake" opens locally on April

B Words

Peace at last?

by Bob Burns

The day before Easter Sunday, the headline in the U.T. read, PEACE AT LAST." This moved me to write down some thoughts. It is indeed gratifying that "at last" some semblance of an agreement has been reached in Ireland. The vicious warfare that has persisted for so long, may possibly be in the armistice phase with a view to finally coming to an end. There will be an election in June to determine whether both sides agree to stop the killing. Both Catholic and Protestant factions must agree to disarm and to discontinue a military style forbearance in Northern Ireland. The IRA must disarm and the British martial law has to end, if there is to be peace.

In my research of Irish history, I have come to believe that the religious "cause" between two factions of Christianity, has little to do with the conflict. It seems to always be termed a "religious war," but I think that it is a specious theory that covers up the basic Irish-British animosity that has festered for so long. Religious banners wave, but things like greed, pride, revenge, and a bellicose nature are the main stimuli for the fighting to continue over these many years.

First greed. The Island is divided between the haves (British and Irish industrialists in Ulster), and the have-nots (in mostly rural Southern Ireland). The wealth is in the north. Then there is the fierce Celtic pride. Where else in the world is national pride surpassed, if even equalled, than in Ireland. This probably accounts in some way for the Irish just liking to fight. It is just historic that a "good fight" was almost a mandated part of weddings, wakes, and all celebrations in the Gaelic Community. I am glad that the part of me that is Irish was denied that trait.

In addition, the Gaelic people, from the beginning, were almost constantly at war with each other. The failles, clans, and alliances struggled continuously for domination of the country. It was not religious, but more a matter of power and prestige, for which wars were fought. Then came the English who appeared to think that genocide was the only solution to the Irish problem of lack of submission. The cruelty and the attitude that to be Irish was less than human, was visited upon them in unbelievable ways. Rebellion, fighting back and "revenge" became an obsession that exists to this day. I do not believe that the labels of Catholic or Protestant have made for conflict, but they are merely uniforms that distinguish one side from the other. The fact that Ireland was almost 100 percent Catholic, and these same for the Protestant England, made it just another differ-

Let us all pray that this accord in Ireland will, at last become a permanent peace, and that the religion part of the animosity be discarded. Old wounds hurt long, but eventually they heal, and now is the time for healing in Ireland...God willing.

Letter to the Editor

Elections are coming, be informed!

As we approach the June 2 primary elections, it is critical that we become as informed as possible about the issues and candidates that will have an impact on our communities. The League of Women Voters believes an informed electorate to be of paramount importance. With all the recent disruptions involving local boards, we have prepared a document to help people to select responsible candidates, particularly in local elections, when they vote.

One quote from this guide states: "Recent recall activity has some people wondering if we need to look more carefully at all candidate before we vote rather than after they are elected. Many people depend on political parties to help them sort out candidates in partisan races. But most local elections (city councils, boards of supervisors, school districts, water boards, and other special districts) are non-partisan. We are on our own in selecting candidates for these offices. How can we choose good candidates? What information do we need to make a considered opinion? Where can we get accurate information?"

Another quote states: "Many candidates for local offices have no name identification in the community and the resumes in voter pamphlets may not really answer the questions we should ask." To address these concerns the Grossmont-Cajon Valley League of Women Voters is holding a forum April 16 at 7 p.m. at the El Cajon City Council Chambers. Knowledgeable community members will be exploring the problem and looking for solutions

The open primary, the first in California in many years, will further confuse many voters. The stated purpose is to allow all voters, including independents, to select the top vote-getter in each party for the November election in partisan races. This June several races have only one candidate filled in any party which could lead to greater voter apathy as it may appear there is no reason to vote.

In actuality, some of the most important races are the local races. In East county, the City of Lemon Grove has four seats up. In Grossmont Union High School District there is the very important selection of the best candidate to stabilize a district that has been in turmoil. While not, perhaps of prominent concern to many, the County Board of Education seat is an important one. That board sets overall policy for the entire County for K-12 schools.

A low voter turnout allows a minority to set government policies for the total community. We deserve better than that!

BARBARA COLLIS League of Women Voters, El Cajon

Facing Diversity

by E.A. Barrera

s the nation observes the 30th anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination, political leaders in East County are divided over the current state of cultural assimilation.

Are we still a great melting pot in which everyone chooses to forego their ethnic roots in favor of blending into a greater American identity? Was this King's ideal of the colorblind society?

Or are we striving for a multicultural ideal in which we celebrate our ethnic uniqueness? Do we seek to be a giant chef's salad. with all the colors of the community maintaining their separate essences, yet jumbled together to create an even better flavor?

La Mesa City Councilman Jay La Suer will tell you that the multicultural teachings of today have



Jay La Suer

moved us away from Martin Luther King's notion of the colorblind society

"We seem to want to see each other only through our differences," La Suer said. "I have no problem with learning about another person's heritage, but when it shifts the focus away from our common history, then that is where the damage begins."

La Suer expressed his concerns at a recent evaluation of KingFest East County, a local commemoration of the Martin Luther King national holiday

Events such as the International Friendship Festival, spearheaded by the city of El Cajon every fall. produce "a double-edged sword," La Suer says.

"A nation is the sum total of

the people in it." he says. "The festival means no harm, but when you start celebrating our differences over the things that unite us, then your saying those differences are more important."

La Suer says that multiculturalism is a political idea used by people who want to promote their own agenda. For example, he says some people object to every citizen understanding and speaking English because they say it would impose a subjective standard.

'That's absurd," La Suer says. "No other country in the world believes it's ok not to have a common language.

La Suer's colleague on the La Mesa City Council, Councilman Barry Jantz, defends the meltingpot notion and agrees that those who advocate a multicultural approach to education have political motives in mind.

"The melting-pot does not take away anyone's right to be proud of their heritage," Jantz said.

He maintains, however, that many who advocate multiculturalism seek to promote the political clout of of certain ethnic groups.

"Multiculturalism in the present sense is not about ethnicity, it's about division," he says. "Groups segregate themselves and then ask for a bigger piece of the pie.

Jantz says the best examples of this are the non-traditional departments which have grown at San Diego State University over the past two decades.

When SDSU hit severe budget trouble in 1991, administrators chose to cut departments not based on relevance to the curriculum, but based on relative political strength, he says.

So, the German Department was cut while the Woman's Studies Department was left alone.

These sentiments are echoed by 77th District Assemblyman Steve Baldwin, also critical of the way SDSU has promoted cultural diversity

Baldwin says many public schools have their priorities

"Kids in this country need to know about Thomas Jefferson more than they need to know about the plight of the Australian Aborigines," Baldwin says. "There is an emphasis by many

who promote multiculturalism to try and say all cultures are equal. A certain moral equivalency takes place that hides the problems and evils of Third World countries. while seeking to make America look bad."

This critique of multiculturalism is not shared by many leaders in the East County. El Cajon City Councilman Todd Keegan called La Suer's contention that the Friendship Festival creates divisions "ridiculous."

Keegan is not alone on the El Cajon City Council.

"I'm surprised Jay said that." said Councilman Dick Ramos. "The festival brings all people together under one roof.

El Cajon Mayor Joan Shoemaker, who made the international festival a top priority during her first campaign for mayor, says that the melting pot idea should be replaced by the "salad bowl"

"Everyone living together, recognizing their own unique histories and cultures, yet joined



Joan Shoemaker

together by a common American link," Shoemaker says.

The mayor says that the festival is very important because it allows people a chance to meet, who otherwise might be afraid to





learn and sample the ideas and traditions of other countries.

"Understanding and knowledge are what create peace and avoid problems," she says. "I don't understand criticism of things that promote other cultures. I'm of Dutch ancestry - I love tulips and Dutch shoes. I've always been very proud of my roots. That doesn't mean I don't consider myself first of all an American."

Lemon Grove Mayor Mary Sessom says the melting pot is completely out of date.

"A colorblind society is neither practical nor even welcome," Sessom says. "El Cajon's Friendship Festival is one of the best things in the county for promoting unity. We should all be aware of our differences. That doesn't mean were not Americans first, but it leads to understanding of each other."

Sessom contradicts the sentiments made by Baldwin and Jantz. She considers the multicultural oriented departments created at SDSU to be necessary.

"Academia is usually on the forefront of ideas regarding society," says Sessom, herself an adjunct faculty member at





Cuyamaca College. "Political divisiveness is caused by those who use any attempts at better understanding between people to say were being un-American. 'We all



Mary Sessom

want to be vanilla,' seems to be the attitude among a lot of peo-

County Supervisor Dianne Jacob supports the El Cajon Friendship Festival, as does Wendell Cutting, chief of staff to Congressman Duncan Hunter. Both

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FRYER CHICKENS **BBQ STEAK** END CUT PORK CHOPS agree that seeking a colorblind society should be the ultimate goal of a community, and think efforts to increase understanding of differing ethnicities can only help bring that goal about.

"I have the highest praise for the El Cajon Friendship Festival," Jacob says. "More knowledge is always better."

Cutting says it is important to have a thorough understanding of American History.

"Both multiculturalism and the melting-pot theories are compatible," he says. "if celebrating one's cultural background while maintaining an American identity is the objective."

Literary and cultural critic M. Keith Booker has said that multicultural theory poses fundamental challenges to traditional canons of western society.

He writes in his textbook, A Practical Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism, that multiculturalism "will often produce new perspectives that allow us to see the dominant culture in different ways."

Renowned scholar and social critic Edward Said has argued in his book, *Orientalism*, that all human knowledge is filtered through ideological discourses.

"All cultures impose corrections upon raw reality," he writes, "changing it from free-floating objects into units of knowledge."

Parents can track slow language development by watching for clues on speech or hearing problems

by Todd Gottlieb

Children are individuals whose language development may be slower or faster than their peers.

Parents frequently worry — often needlessly — that their child's language skills are not developing as rapidly as children of the same age.

On the other hand, it is important to identify speech and hearing problems early on, so that any problems can be treated or corrected before the child starts school.

An estimated one out of every 1,000 children is born totally deaf, due to genetic factors in about 50 percent of the cases. Most lags in language development, however, are more often the result of other causes, said Dr. Lina Lacsamana-Schein, M.D., a family medicine physician with Physicians Healthcare Medical Group in the East County.

Hearing problems can often be recognized in infancy, but deafness doesn't usually show up until after six months of age. Loud noises are likely to cause infants to startle. Parents should be concerned if their baby does not respond readily to slamming doors or something dropped on a hard floor.

Between 6 months of age and a year, babies begin to respond to familiar voices and start to repeat their own sounds. Parents can spot hearing-loss early by watching the baby's reaction (or lack of reaction) to noises. Consult a pediatrician if the child doesn't turn his or her head to look for the source of voices or other sounds.

By one year of age, a child usually has a selective vocabulary of a dozen to three dozen words and may actually intelligibly speak about 10 words such as "mommy". "daddy" and "byebye." Words begin to have actual meaning and children at this age understand simple directions.

"Although they may understand words, it is not unusual for children to not begin talking until 18 months to 2 years of age," said Lacsamana-Schein. "The fact that their understanding of words is developing, perhaps, is more important than their speech."

Lacsamana-Schein said a child's understanding of words, phrases and grammatical structure shows remarkable growth during this period. Children who are not talking at all by age 2, however, should have their hearing checked by the pediatrician as part of a de-

velopmental assessment. The physician may then refer the child to a special speech/hearing therapy program.

Lacsamana-Schein outlined the common causes of slow speech development:

- Bilingual family. Learning two languages at once may take longer than learning one.
- Primary caretaker speaks another language. Both the child and the caretaker may find gestures work faster than words. The child needs a fluent adult model who speaks his primary language.
- Inadequate conversational interaction with adult. This can happen when the daycare ratio has too few adults for the number of children or when parents don't spend enough time conversing with or reading to the child. Parents can help their child's language development by taking the time to listen and respond to their children and to read stories to them on a regular basis.
- Brothers and sisters. Older children may interpret for the little ones, so that they have little need to speak for themselves. Sibling chatter may be so continuous that the younger child has little chance for face-to-face talk with the parents. In addition, twins or siblings close in age may have a private language all their own.
- Boy versus girl. Boys' language development may be slightly slower than girls, but their gross motor skills may be more advanced. Try not to compare.
- The child is acquiring some other skill. Children cannot learn everything at once. They may talk more when they get walking or some other skill perfected.

According to Lacsamana-Schein, stuttering and stammering is generally caused by a preschooler searching for the right word, which holds up the flow of what he or she wants to say.

Children who are excited or upset want to communicate but the words get blocked. Rarely does this turn into a permanent speech problem.

"Parents need to remain calm and accepting of the way the child talks," she said. "If he is not made to feel nervous or self-conscious about his speech, he will eventually talk his way out of this phase."

Acute or chronic ear infections are the most common cause of temporary hearing loss, which can lead to speech delays. An ear infection can be treated with antibiotics and early treatment can prevent possible damage to hearing.

A child with chronic infections may need to have tiny plastic tubes inserted during a minor operation. The tubes help to equalize pressure on either side of the ear drum and usually fall out in six to 18 months. The tiny hole in the ear drum eventually heals itself.

Children develop at different ages and go through different phases, but parents who are concerned about their child's development should consult their pediatrician or family practice physician.

"With early diagnosis and intervention, we may be able to prevent our children from experiencing the frustration related to inadequate communication skill development," Lacsamana-Schein said. "No child is too young to be helped."



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Grossmont honors designer with 'Walk of Fame' award

Former Grossmont College student, Gregg Barnes, credits his professional success in the theater world to the solid direction he received from Grossmont faculty. Barnes will receive the College's Walk of Fame Award at 11 a.m. Monday in the Main Ouad.

Barnes, who attended Grossmont College from 1975-77, is a busy New York theater costume designer and faculty member at New York University. He has over 15 years of professional experience in designing for shows produced on Broadway, at the Old Globe Theater and the New York City Opera.

Recently, Barnes designed Roseanne Barr's production of "The Wizard of Oz" and is the designer for the acclaimed production of "Side Show" on Broadway as well as the Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe this season.

He started at Grossmont as a Theatre Arts major playing lead roles in productions of "The Fantastiks," "Toad of Toad Hall" and "Kiss Me Kate." After enrolling in costume history and design classes, he found his interest in designing costumes soared. He designed the productions of "Alice in Wonderland." "Mad Woman of Challiot," "Hotel Paradiso" and "School for Scandal." Barnes' costume designs are used by instructors in Grossmont classes as models and examples.

When nominating Barnes for the award, Clark Mires, instructor at Grossmont's Theatre Arts, said while he was at Grossmont, Barnes earned the respect of his student peers, audiences and college staff due to his professionalism and achievements on college

After Grossmont College. Barnes earned his M.F.A. at New York University where he has been a faculty member since 1983. In 1994, Barnes received the distinguished Irene Sharaff Young Master Award.

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Letter to the Editor

Tree didn't need to be cut down

I believe the recent chop-down of the Fireman's Park laurel tree was done to further consolidate lands in Special Treatment Area I for exploitative development by those in a position to manipulate and profit from maximum buildout. In no way do I approve. I also believe that this chop-down clearly demonstrates just how totally disconnected and opposite from the Lemon Grove citizenry that city staff and council truly are.

That big, beautiful, vibrant, healthy tree was here a long time. It was an asset to our city, the school kids, and our property values. It was utterly healthy and had only recently received an expensive, excellent trim job. We witnessed this "crime" and took 35

mm photos of the whole destructive process. There was no logical reason. When we called city hall, they had plenty of excuses ready. No, the tree was not diseased! Not invasive, high or low, and it's main structure was all straight and strong and vertical. Mr. Niño wasn't the problem, as the last rain was before the tree was executed. If some sort of dangerous limb thing was apparent to staff, it sure eluded us. If too many kids enjoyed it. and climbed it. does that mean we may lose more? Well, in closing I just ask you Grovers to look around and start thinking. Dick Whitmore, the tree protector, for mayor is sounding better to me every day!

J. M. COCHRANE Lemon Grove

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decedent's WILL and codicils if
any, be admitted to probate The
will and any codicils are available
for examination in the file kept by
the court

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DECLARATION FOR A PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove will hold a public hearing on Tuesday May 5, 1998 at 6,00 p.m. in the Lemon Grove Community Center, 3146 School

SUBJECT: HEARING - ZON-ING ORDINANCE AMEND-MENT ZA98-02 AND AND MENT ZA98-02 AND
CERTH ICATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION ND98-04
TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT OF THE OFF-STREET
PARKING REQUIREMENTS.
CHAPTER 17-24 DISTRICT
REGULATION. SECTION 17 24 010 OFF-STREET PAR-ING STANDARDS OF THE

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At said hearing, any interested person may appear and be heard. A Draft Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact has been filed by the City of Lemon Grove for this project. The Initial Study which has been prepared for this project is available for public review in the Office of the Community Development Department, 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945

Written comments regarding the adequacy of this Negative Declaration must be submitted to the City of Lemon Grove Community Development Department 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, Califorma within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this Notice Questions regarding this hearing

may be addressed to Mary Jo Wilson at (619) 464-6934 or in person at 3232 Main Street. Lemon Grove. CA 91945-1797 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. City Hall is closed every other Friday. LINDA'S NILES

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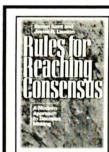
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New map spotlights East County for visitors and tourists

Imagine drawing a map of East County that highlighted only tourist attractions

Golf courses would be large and prominent. RV parks, casinos and fishing holes would also stand out. Community centers and city halls wouldn't even blip on the screen.

El Cajon. Santee and Lakeside would have large areas with golf courses, lakes and campgrounds clearly marked. Lemon Grove and Spring Valley would barely get a

At least, that's the vision of East County laid out on the new "East County Visitor's Map" produced by the San Diego East Visitors Bureau. The full-color, glossy guide is part of an ongoing collaborative marketing campaign designed to help strengthen the economic base of East County through an increase in visibility and viability of the East County visitor industry.

The bureau hopes the map will be a tangible marketing piece to promote the region, to be utilized by San Diego residents, out-of-town guests, meeting planners and families planning to relocate to East County.

Just don't look for landmarks familiar and important to natives. Mount Helix appears prominently, but Mount San Miguel - off limits to tourists - does not. Chambers of commerce, historical society buildings - even hospitals - just aren't on the 28-inch by 22-inch, doublesided, full-color map

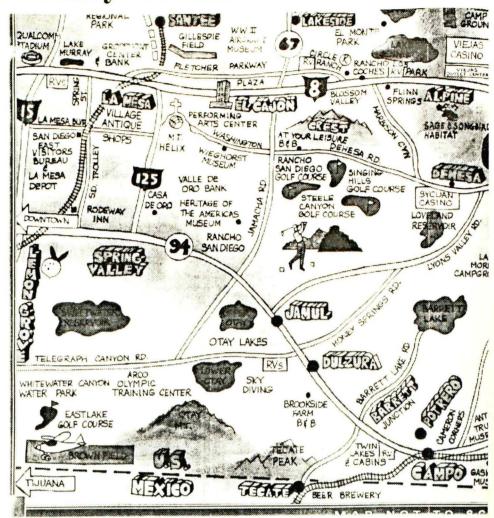
You will find East County's major attractions, recreation sites. points of interest, golf courses and museums, and any shopping locations, hotels and restaurants that belong to the Visitors Bureau or paid for advertising

For instance, the back of the map has only four entries under "Restaurants & Cafés," the ones who paid their dues to the publisher (Spring Valley's sole entry, the Jelly Roll Caffe, is listed as being in Lakeside). Hotels in Borrego Springs, Julian and Boulevard are listed along with the other bureau members in what we tend to call East County.

Some 100,000 maps have been printed by Barnes Printers of La Mesa for distribution through chambers of commerce, the Board of Realtors, visitor's bureaus around the county, hotels and motels, Project Navy relocation packets and state parks and camp sites.

As an enhancement piece to the 1998 Map of East County, the San Diego East Visitors Bureau plans to publish an annual East County Visitors Guide by the end of the year.

Those interested in becoming a member of the bureau or who would like to receive a free copy of the Map of East County, can call 463-1166.





Spotlight on Business

Call Dan at 461-4306 or 469-0101





Bold Blue Adventure



A dive shop in Santee? Who on earth would locate a dive shop so far from the ocean? That person is Mike Galvin owner/operator and Master Scuba Instructor for BOLD BLUE ADVENTURE DIVING.

Mike moved his business from Japan in 1994 to offer San Diego's East County diving community a more convenient alternative. The fact is. Bold Blue is East County's only PADI 5 Star Training Facility offering courses in snorkeling. PADI Discover SCUBA Diving (try diving with an instructor/no certification issued) and certification programs from Open Water (entry level) to instructor training. Whether you've been diving for years, just recently been certified or want to learn to dive, Mike's 30-plus years of experience will assist you in getting the most out of your diving experience.

What makes Bold Blue so unique? Their commitment to small, personalized classes where there are never more than four students per instructor. The student determines when the class begins as well as its pace. Everything is up-front. There

Bold Blue doesn't stop there. They also offer trips ranging from a day at the Coronado Islands in the waters of Mexico or weekend in Catalina, to a 7-day trip to Micronesia's exotic Truk (Chuuk) Lagoon

So, next time you find yourself in Santee, stop by and say hello to Mike and his enthusiastic staff. They are always anx ious to share their love and enthusiasm for the fascinating world of recreational diving.

Bold Blue is located at 9530 Pathway Street, #101, one block south of Prospect Ave. Phone 258-7752 or visit their web page at www.boldblue.com.



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